



# Metro Codes

E—News For Professionals

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

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## MAYOR COMMISSIONS DOWNTOWN TREE MASTER PLAN

*Plan recommended by Green Ribbon Committee, Metro Tree Advisory Committee*

Mayor Karl Dean announced today that Metro will create a downtown tree master plan to ensure the proper planning, growth and maintenance of Nashville's urban tree canopy.

The master plan was recommended by the Natural Resources Subcommittee of the Mayor's Green Ribbon Committee, following a report by the Metro Tree Advisory Committee earlier this year that identified a lack of programming in Metro related to the city's urban forest.

"Trees improve air quality, help reduce energy use, and greatly enhance a city's aesthetics." Mayor Karl Dean

"Trees improve air quality, help reduce energy use, and greatly enhance a city's aesthetics," Dean said. "A master plan will help us identify what parts of our urban core need more trees and which types to plant. And in the long term, it will allow our city to maximize the benefits of having a fully-developed and well-maintained urban forest."

Randall Lantz, superintendent of horticulture for Metro Parks, has been charged with leading the development of the downtown tree master plan. Lantz will convene a working group including representatives from Metro Codes, the Planning Department and Public Works. Among the first steps of developing the plan will be updating a 2004 inventory of downtown trees conducted by the Tree Advisory Committee.

The perimeters of the tree plan will be similar to that of Nashville's downtown streetscape plan, which encompasses the Planning Department's entire subarea 9 planning boundary. Although Lantz said the focus first will be on the streets in the central business district downtown.

"There has been a tremendous amount of work done in recent years to improve the street-scapes of Church Street, Commerce and Demonbreun. If we focus our attention there first, people will be able to see a marked improvement in the near term," he said.

## Please Be Advised—Metro's Ethics Policy

Metropolitan Government's Executive Order #006 prohibits Metro Employees from soliciting or accepting, "directly or indirectly, on behalf or himself, herself, or any member of the employee's household, any gift, gratuity, service, favor, entertainment, lodging, transportation, loan, loan guarantee or any other thing of monetary value from any [person]."

This Executive Order was reinforced earlier this year by Metro Council's Ordinance #BL2007-1382 (signed into law on June 5, 2007) which establishes an Ethics Standard in the Metro Code of Laws, Chapter 2.222 Standards of Conduct, Disclosures of Interests and Enforcement. Under this Ordinance, **Metro Employees are prohibited from accepting "gratuitous food or beverages furnished by any individual, entity or organization" as well as any item of value, travel, etc.**

CM-E01

# Notice of Proposed Code Change

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT  
OF  
NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON  
COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF  
CODES AND BUILDING  
SAFETY



Prior to the introduction of a code change or a change in departmental policy or procedure or a change to a plan which may significantly affect the development permit process, the use of real property, the development of real property, or construction thereon,

The Department of Codes and Building Safety has adopted a procedure to first submit a "Notice" of the proposed change to interdepartmental review by Codes, Planning, Water Services, Fire, and Public Works. The purpose of this review is to coordinate the change among the departments and to the greatest extent possible reduce impact upon the contractor/developer customers of the participating departments.

Copies of the "Notice" will also be submitted to the Deputy Mayor, Director of Finance and the Director of the Mayor's Office of Economic Development.

**Date:** 10/28/08

**Department:** Codes/Electrical

**Date change will take effect:** Approx 2/09

**Copy of Proposed Change:** Copy of ordinance is attached to Change Document or attached to e-mail .

## Outline Description of Change:

We are proposing an ordinance to adopt the 2005 edition of the National Electrical Code (NEC) and Local Amendments to replace the currently adopted code, the 2002 edition of the National Electrical Code and Local Amendments. This is a natural progression of Code adoption process.

The 2005 NEC is referenced and coordinated for use with the 2006 edition of the International Building Code, the edition currently adopted for use in Metro Nashville. This coordination improves the consistency of interpretations and application of the code. The developers of the 2005 NEC have also published an "Analysis of Change" for the 2005 NEC, this book lists all changes made from the 2002 NEC and the reasons the changes were made to the code.

While the 2008 NEC is available, we believe that the 2005 NEC is the best choice for Metro Nashville. There are some additions to the 2008 version which have not been proven in the field. The most controversial change in the 2008 NEC is the addition of arc fault protection everywhere and not just in the bedrooms as required by the 2005 NEC. The addition of arc fault protection in all rooms and not just in the bedrooms as required by the 2005 NEC.

## Transition Plan for Change to Occur:

The change will have a 180 day grace period for projects being submitted for building permit. Stand alone individual trade permits shall be issued under the 2005 NEC the day after adoption.

**Comments:** There is a 30 day comment period. Please send written comments concerning this change to:

Wade Hill, AIA    Department of Codes and Building Safety    P.O. Box 196300    Nashville, TN    37219-6300

This change will be posted on the Codes and Building Safety's web site, and notice has been sent to the following:

HBA of Middle Tennessee  
TSPE  
ABC of Middle Tennessee  
ACEC, TN Chapter  
AGC of Middle Tennessee  
BOMA, Middle Tennessee Chapter  
AIA, Middle Tennessee Chapter  
IBEW  
NECA  
PHCC

USGBC, Middle Tennessee  
TFBAA  
Plumbing & Pipe Fitters, Local #572  
TFSCA  
Downtown Partnership  
NAPMA  
REIN  
ASCE of Middle Tennessee  
Nashville Chamber of Commerce

"Notice" will be emailed to the customer email distribution lists maintained by Codes, Planning and Water Services.

## A Modest Home Remains National Norm

*The typical American home, be it owned or rented, contains a median of 5.5 rooms, according to Census data.*

By Jenny Sullivan

The anatomy of the average American home, be it owned or rented, hasn't changed much in recent years, considering only 12 percent of the nation's 112 million occupied housing units were built after the year 2000.

But data released by the U.S. Census Bureau this morning from the American Community Survey (ACS) does offer some insight into how the average Joe lives, and what new home builders are competing against in the resale landscape, which currently includes nearly 4.7 million units of existing inventory—an 11.2 month supply.

Currently, more than 69 percent of U.S. households reside in single-family homes, the Census reports, compared with 24.6 percent in attached units, and 6.3 percent in mobile homes or other structures. Slightly more than two-thirds (67.2 percent) of homes are owner-occupied, whereas 32.8 percent are rental units.

Big houses may have constituted the bread and butter of the housing boom, but they are not the norm in the bigger picture.

In fact, the majority of U.S. residences (70.3 percent) contain just four to seven rooms, with a median overall room count of 5.5. Fewer than one in five housing units (17.4 percent) feature eight or more rooms.

Some 67.3 percent of housing units contain two or three bedrooms. The number of housing units outfitted with four or more bedrooms stands at 20.8 percent.

Roughly one-third (33.1 percent) of households have one car, whereas a slightly larger share (38.1 percent) have two cars. Only one in five households has three or more cars.

The average owner-occupied residence is home to 2.7 people (for rentals, that number is slightly lower, at 2.42).

 **Builder** The Information Source for the Home Building Industry

## Zoning Code Text Amendments Currently Being Considered By The Metro Council

### Proposed Legislation

**Bill No. 2008-350** An ordinance amending Title 10 of the Metropolitan Code to adopt the 2006 International fire Code, and amendments thereto.

**Bill No. 2008-306** Referred to Public Safety Committee An Ordinance amending Section 11.12.070 of the Metropolitan Code, Excessive Noise, to add noise restrictions within the downtown area.

**Bill No. 2008-328** Extends the Tree Ordinance to include all residential properties by requiring residentially subdivided lots to meet tree density requirements on a sliding scale depending on the number of lots.

**Bill No. 2008-332** An ordinance amending Section 10.64.015 of the Metropolitan Code to exempt certain group homes from the required installation of sprinklers when the homes' occupants can evacuate promptly.

## Codes Employees Exceed Goal Set For MECCE Campaign For 2009

*Record \$38,394.92 Raised For Charity*

Metro Codes and Building Safety exceeded its goals for the 2009 Metropolitan Employees Consolidated Charitable Campaign in a big way as employees contributions added to the 12th Annual Metro Codes Charity Golf Tournament totaled \$38,394.92.

Carla Langley-Smith, who headed this year's campaign, thanked the entire department.

"I am so happy we have again had 100 percent participation in this year's campaign. This succeeded our goal previously set. Everyone's hard work and compassion is greatly appreciated," she said.

In addition to the payroll deduction drive, Ms. Langley-Smith said the department held a rooftop costume cookout party.



Members of the Codes & Building Safety Department pose in front of the a check for this years contribution from Metro Codes of \$38,394.92.

## 12th Annual Metro Codes Charity Golf Tournament A Success

A total of \$28,000 was realized from the Metro Codes and Building Safety 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament which benefited three community charities through the Metropolitan Employee Consolidated Charities Campaign.

"We had a great day. The weather was perfect and all of the golfers were happy to have an opportunity to play and to help three great charities," said Codes and Building Safety Director Terry Cobb.

Miriam's Promise, whose mission is to ensure the well-being of children before, during, and after birth; Harris-Hillman School, a Metro public school for special needs children; and Easter Seals Camp, which provides exceptional services to ensure that people living with autism and other disabilities have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play. All benefited through the MECCC contribution from the tournament.



*Terry Cobb (right) teamed up with Rick Jones and Jim Winchester*



**Winners were: First Flight -**  
**1st - Jeff Barnes, Billy Taylor, Mike Cook, Perry Patterson;**  
**2nd - Bobby Allen, Ken Jameson, Randy Evans, Edie Phillips**  
**3rd - Andrew Haley, Scott Lucas, Curtis Coleman, William Carney**

**Second Flight -**  
**1st - Josh Evans, Kevelin Grimes, Scott Frazier**  
**2nd - Greg Pierce, Randy McFarlin, Jeff Evangelist**  
**3rd - Robert Stickler, Aaron Harris, Mike Gravencard, Sam Snopes**

### PASS IT ON!



Pass the word about our newsletter! We would be honored if you would share our newsletter with your colleagues and co-workers. If anyone would like to sign up to receive it themselves, they just need to send us their email, and we will be happy to "Pass It On" to them.

**Terry Cobb and Wade Hill** welcome your feedback on our e-newsletter. Please send your comments to [Wade Hill](mailto:wade.hill@nashville.gov), at [wade.hill@nashville.gov](mailto:wade.hill@nashville.gov)  
 Plans Examination Chief, 862-6520



For information regarding accessibility, please contact Manley Biggers at (615) 862-6521 or fax (615) 862-6499. He can also be reached at [manley.biggers@nashville.gov](mailto:manley.biggers@nashville.gov)

### Department of Codes & Building Safety

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**Mayor—Karl F. Dean**

Director—Terrence Cobb

Office Hours: Mon-Fri / 7:30-4:00

